

ARKANSAS CHEMICAL COMPANY SITE

Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Type of Action: Drum Removal

Project Duration: January 1987 - February 1989

Project Cost: \$2,300,000

Background: In January of 1987, the EPA conducted an initial assessment of this abandoned facility immediately following a request made by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). NJDEP had responded to several fires set at this site months earlier. The site is located in an active industrial park in a densely populated area of the City of Newark. Two major interstates, which were impacted by the previous fires, pass within 200 yards of the site. The assessment identified numerous hazardous materials stored in each of the 9 buildings which comprised the site. Each of these buildings were flooded due to an inoperative drainage system and leaking roofs. Over turned drums, ripped bags and graffiti were evidence of the vandalism that had occurred at the site.

Cleanup Actions: Following the initial site visit, the OSC obtained verbal approval to immediately begin site security measures. A thorough assessment was then conducted and a work plan developed. Cleanup activities were initiated in September of 1987, and concluded in February of 1989. A six month demobilization period occurred during this time while waste stream approvals were obtained and additional funding was secured. In all, over 20,000 drums, containers and bags of hazardous waste were removed from the site. Also removed were over 100 cubic yards of asbestos, 5 unknown compressed gas cylinders, 15,000 gallons of contaminated liquid which had flooded the facility basement and several ampules of radioactive waste. Approximately 5,000 gallons, 3,000 pounds and over 950 empty drums were recycled as part of this cleanup action. Reference books and laboratory glassware found on site were donated to the Newark Board of Education.

Enforcement: The Arkansas Chemical Company filed for bankruptcy in 1983. The owners and operators were traced by the EPA Site Compliance Branch as part of the Potential Responsible Party (PRP) search. Four PRPs were identified and each was issued a Notice Letter in May 1987. None of the PRPs complied with the Notice Letter or offered any assistance in undertaking the cleanup efforts. At the conclusion of the cleanup actions the site was ready to be re-occupied. The EPA negotiated an agreement with the City of Newark that would transfer funds generated by the sale of Arkansas Chemical Company property back to EPA. This sale has not occurred yet but several interested parties have bid on the property. The value of the property is estimated at over \$2,000,000.



Environmental Results: The building has been completely cleaned and decontaminated. The hazards it posed to nearby residences, businesses and commuters has been eliminated. The abandoned facility is now suitable for occupancy.